

7.2.1 - AMERICA ON THE SIDELINES

Visit the Interactive Timeline, “America on the Sidelines” and select *one* campaign: Europe or Asia. With *one* other person (please, no trios), complete the corresponding table below as you work your way through the timeline and uncover America’s level of involvement in foreign affairs prior to WWII. Add rows as necessary.

EUROPE

Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Germany withdraws from disarmament talks	Oct. 1933		No formal action
Hitler repudiates Versailles Treaty	March 1935	“The primary purpose of this Nation is to avoid being drawn into war. It seeks also in every practicable way to promote peace and to discourage war....	No formal action
Italy invasion of Ethiopia	Oct. 1935	If war were to break out anywhere in the world the president could place an embargo	Invoke neutrality laws
Germany reoccupies the Rhineland	March 1936	The U.S. was not in the Treaty of Versailles party	No formal action
Civil war breaks out in Spain	July 1936		Revise Neutrality Laws
Germany annexes Austria	March 1938	“All this we would be doing in pursuit of the notion that by so doing we would avoid war.	No formal action
Czech crisis and Munich conference	Sept. 1938	The U.S. had “no political entanglements”	No formal action
Hitler threatens Poland	Oct. 1938	President Roosevelt asked Congress for half a billion dollars in new military expenditures	Expand armed forces
Germany dismembers Czechoslovakia	Mar. 1939	The position of the Government of the United States has been made consistently clear.	No formal action
Italy invades Albania	Apr. 1939		No formal action
Germany invades Poland	Sept. 1939	Britain and France issued an ultimatum demanding that those forces withdraw in 12 hours	Revise Neutrality Laws

EUROPE

Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action
Germany invades Denmark and Norway	Apr. 1940	Roosevelt firmly believed that Britain and France would defeat Germany	No formal action
Germany invades Low Countries and France	May 1940	Asked Congress for more than a billion dollars spending for new Army and Navy	Expand armed forces
France Surrenders	June 1940	Roosevelt agreed to send 50 destroyers to Great Britain	Send aid to Allies
Start of the "Blitz"	Sept. 1940	Public opinion polls continued to show an overwhelming majority of Americans opposed further involvement in the war	No formal action
Italy invades Greece	Oct. 1940		Send aid to Allies

ASIA

Event (brief description)	Date	Evidence/Quote	U.S. Action